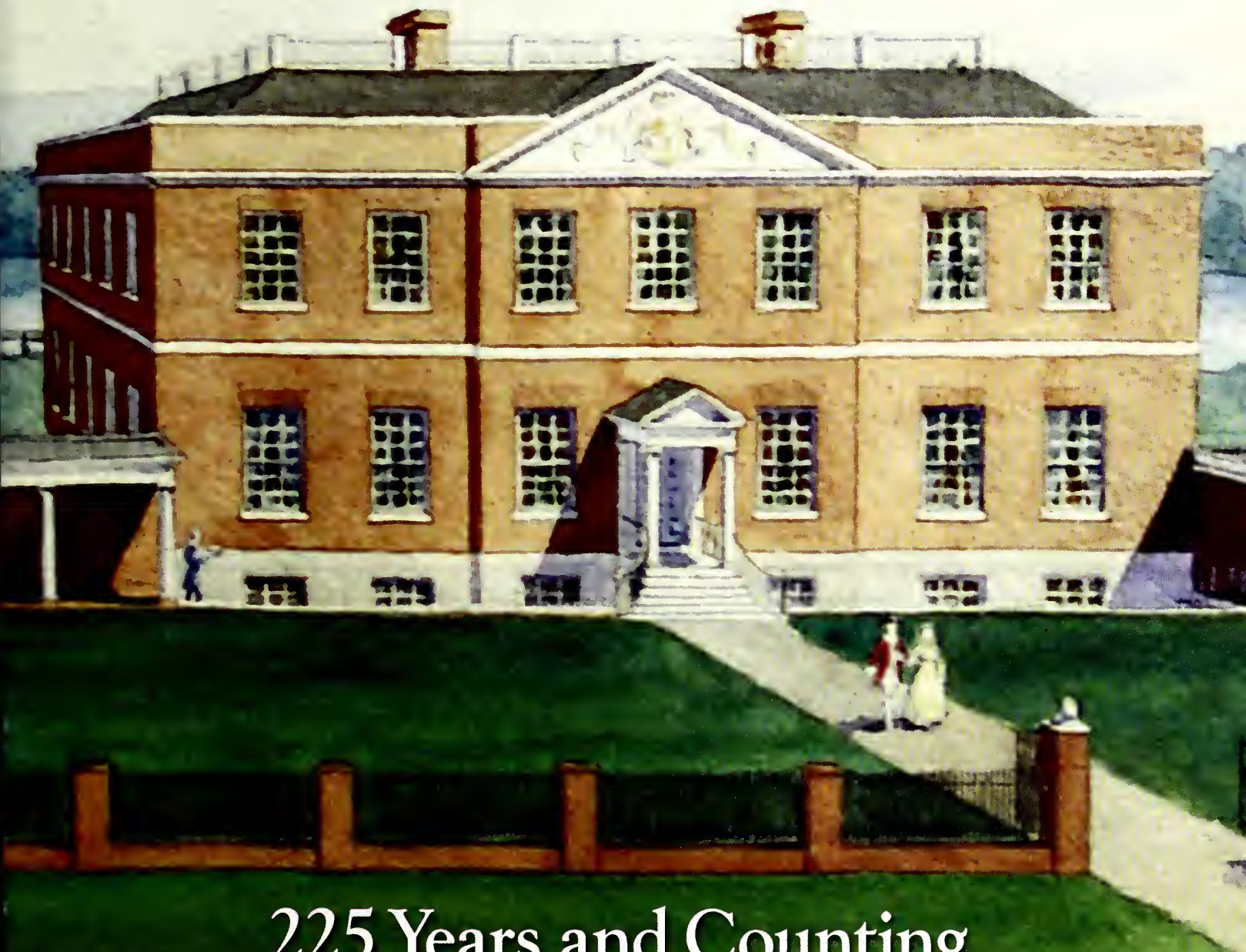


SPRING EVENTS  
THE CALENDAR — PAGES 7-9

SPRING 2002

# The Palace

TRYON PALACE HISTORIC SITES & GARDENS



225 Years and Counting  
*The Palace and the Birth of a New State*





*Budget cuts have forced the indefinite closure of the New Bern Academy Museum.*

## Tryon Palace Sets New Hours, Other Changes

In a cost-cutting move related to budget shortages currently facing government agencies throughout North Carolina, Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Garden has implemented the following changes, effective March 11:

- Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens will close on Mondays. New weekly hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.
- The New Bern Academy Museum and the William Hollister House, two historic buildings that are part of the Tryon Palace museum complex, have been closed to the public.

The changes will be in effect indefinitely. All other parts of the New Bern museum complex remain open as usual, including the Palace, North Carolina's reconstructed first capitol; its adjoining kitchen and stable wings; the 18th-century John Wright Stanly House; the 19th-century George W. Dixon House and Robert Hay House; and its 14 acres of

gardens and grounds.

"Any cutbacks, no matter how small, are painful, and we'd obviously much rather have a healthy economy that allows us to keep every one of our buildings open every day of the year," explained Kay P. Williams, administrator of Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. "But we live in the real world. We need to do our part to assist the state of North Carolina as it looks for solutions to its current budget difficulties."

Williams said Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens opted for these changes specifically because they enabled the museum to make state-mandated cuts in expenses without reducing the quality of the experience that tens of thousands of visitors each year have come to expect at Tryon Palace.

"Tryon Palace is North Carolina's home, and we're still here to welcome our visitors six days every week," Williams said. "Everyone will still be able to come here to learn about our past, to tour our historic homes and our magnificent gardens, and to enjoy all that Tryon Palace has to offer." ♦

# The Palace

The Magazine of the  
Tryon Palace Council of Friends  
VOLUME 2 NUMBER 3 SPRING 2002

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## On the Cover

Detail from the painting "Colonial North Carolina – Royal Governor's Residence – New Bern, N.C.," by North Carolina artist

Jehuh D. Paulson (watercolor and ink on paper, 1944). From the collection of Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens.



## Thoroughly Modern Shirley

WHAT KIND OF PERSON SPENDS HER ENTIRE WEEK DOING 18TH-CENTURY HOUSEHOLD CHORES?

As the person in charge of all the activities in the Tryon Palace kitchen — chief cook and bottle washer, you might say — Shirley Willis spends her workdays immersed in the past. By day you may find her in front of a blazing hearth, preparing a feast fit for a royal governor from authentic Colonial recipes. Or out back huddled over a steaming kettle blackened with indigo, dyeing freshly spun wool. Or researching 18th-century basket-making patterns and techniques.

And when she's not at work?

"I do a little gardening, and that's about it," Willis says. "And the computer. I *love* the computer."

All of which goes to show that being an eccentric or anachronistic person is not necessarily a prerequisite for having an eccentric, anachronistic job. Willis may dedicate a good portion of her waking hours — as all Tryon Palace craftspeople do — to thinking, acting and otherwise living as a servant in the year 1770 would, but it's all done for the decidedly modern purpose of creating an entertaining and educational experience for the Palace's 21st-century visitors.

The authenticity Willis creates is one reason so many people say the crafts activities they see in and around the kitchen are highlights of their visits to Tryon Palace.

"Visitors love it, and I think it has to do with the fact that everyone can identify with food and cooking," she says, "because everybody eats."

Willis first began working as a Palace cook 18 years ago, back when so little was known about Colonial-era kitchen practices that the person who hired her told her to do her own research and find her own recipes.



"Everyone can identify with food and cooking," Shirley Willis says, "because everyone eats."

You could, in fact, call her a pioneer in the field. Among her innovations: the creation of amazingly lifelike faux foods that Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens now displays in its historic homes to give them an authentic lived-in aura.

"Shirley Willis brought historical foodways programs to Tryon Palace at a time when our 18th-century kitchen interpretation was in its infancy," says Sara Spalding, curator of interpretation. "She is always excited to incorporate new recipes and research into her daily routine. She has also been instrumental in planning innovative crafts demonstrations and hands-on activities for school groups and special events. And Shirley's skill at

creating realistic-looking faux foods based on period recipes allows visitors to feel as if a house's historical inhabitants have just excused themselves from the dinner table."

Over the years, Willis added to her expertise in the field by studying historic domestic skills in places as diverse and as highly regarded as Colonial Williamsburg, Old Sturbridge Village, and Plimoth Plantation. Four years ago, Willis made the leap from cook to majordomo of the entire Palace kitchen wing, which put her in charge of not only the kitchen staff but also the craftspeople who work in and around the building as well. Her title today is domestic skills programs manager.

"I started out supervising three people, and then eventually more responsibility was added on and more people to supervise as the programs grew, and pretty soon I was supervising the entire building and being responsible for staffing," Willis says. "So now I'm still doing research, but I'm doing it in a lot of different areas, like weaving and spinning."

"I also have some very good people who know what they're doing, and that helps. They're all willing to do research. So we all work as a team."

Last time she counted, Willis says, she was now supervising "somewhere in the neighborhood of 15" craftspeople.

Alas, being a supervisor means doing, as Willis puts it, "less and less of the fun stuff and more of the not-fun stuff." Still, she readily acknowledges that doing 18th-century household chores all day really can be a fun way to spend your day.

At work, that is.

And when the workday ends?

"I do use cast iron cookware at home. I wouldn't trade it for anything," Willis says. "But I use it on a gas range." ♦





## 225 Years and Counting

AMERICA'S REVOLUTION GAVE BIRTH TO THE NEW STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA —  
AND NEW BERN'S PALACE WAS ITS HOME

April 7, 2002, marks the 225th anniversary of the first session of the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, which met at the Government House — or “Palace” — in New Bern on April 7, 1777. Here is the story of what occurred in the momentous days leading up to that historic first session where the State of North Carolina was born ...

By George Ward Shannon Jr.

A century of strong rule by royal governors dictated by the will of a distant British king had done little to steer the colonists living in North Carolina toward the pursuit of happiness. On Aug. 24, 1775, North Carolinians opposed to the unjust taxation practices perpetuated by Loyalists asked their Provincial Congress to appoint a committee of delegates to represent their rights. The committee assembled at the “Palace” in New Bern. A new governmental framework for gaining

American independence was forged as a result of their meeting.

The patriots living in North Carolina now possessed all the characteristics necessary to join with the common cause of America. Conquering tyranny and establishing their freedom was their mission. Rebellious opposition soon evolved into warfare, and over the next eight years North Carolina played a major role in our country's revolt against England's royal government.

This excerpt from the April 7, 1775, Colonial Records underscores how the patriots of the Old North State shared their enthusiasm for independence:

*Last Tuesday, Governor Martin met the Assembly of North Carolina, at Newbern, and addressed them in a high-flying, abusive anti-American speech, in which he spoke hard things of all the colonies, congresses, committees, and people on the continent, except those of his own stamp, and begged of his assembly not to approve of sending delegates to the Congress in May. To this the Assembly returned a truly noble answer, and today they have passed the following resolution: “That the House do highly approve of the proceedings of the Continental Congress lately held at Philadelphia, and that they are determined, as members of the community in general, that they will strictly adhere to the said resolutions, and will use the influence they have to induce the same*

*observance by every individual of this colony.”*  
(— Diary of the American Revolution)

Royal Gov. Josiah Martin's decree at this late hour served only to exacerbate the problem at hand and helped fuel the desire for a united resistance. In late May of 1775 a frightened and frustrated Gov. Martin fled the Palace and retreated to the mouth of the Cape Fear River and onto the deck of a British sloop-of-war. There he would plot his revenge — a military strategy, which he believed would result in the restoration of the royal government.

The Declaration of Independence of July 4 denounced aristocratic rule. Its decree promoted a democratic government based upon “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” To this end, many North Carolinians pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to the cause of freedom from Great Britain.

Col. Richard Caswell, a North Carolina patriot of great renown, garnered the support of many fellow statesmen by his splendid military victory at the battle of Moore's Creek Bridge. Soon thereafter, Caswell was asked to preside over North Carolina's Provincial Congress.

The task of drawing up the commonwealth's constitution fell upon the Provincial Congress. The synergy generated by the spirit of independence felt in Philadelphia led North Carolina's

The first session of the General Assembly held at the Palace in 1777 was made up of the following legislators. The speaker of the 1777 Senate was Samuel Ashe of New Hanover County, and the clerk was James Green Jr. of Craven County. The remaining members of the 1777 Senate are listed below in alphabetical order by the counties they represented.

Legislators present were David Love (Anson), Thomas Respass (Beaufort), John Campbell (Bertie), Thomas Robeson (Bladen), Archibald Maclaine (Brunswick), Charles McDowell (Burke), Benjamin Seawell (Bute), John Gray (Camden), James Parrot (Carteret), James Saunders (Caswell), Ambrose Ramsey (Chatham), Luke Sumner (Chowan), James Coor (Craven), David Smith (Cumberland), Samuel Jarvis (Currituck), Benjamin Exum (Dobbs), James Keenan (Duplin), Elisha Battle (Edgecombe), Memucan Hunt (Granville), Ralph Gorrell (Gilford), John Bradford (Halifax), Robert Sumner (Hertford), William Russell (Hyde), Needham Bryan (Johnston), William Williams (Martin), John McK. Alexander (Mecklenburg), Samuel Ashe (New Hanover), Allen Jones (Northampton), William Cray (Onslow), John Spicer (Onslow), Thomas Hart (Orange), Joseph Jones (Pasquotank), William Skinner (Perquimans), Robert Salter (Pitt), Griffith Rutherford (Rowan), Robert Lanier (Surry), Charles McLean (Tryon), Archibald Currie (Tyrrell), James Jones (Wake), Michael Rogers (Wake), and John Carter (Washington).

Provincial Congress to draft and implement a state constitution, which was ratified on Dec. 18, 1776. The Congress assumed its role as a legislative body, reviewing the works of Provincial Congresses held in other states as well as various Colonial assemblies.

After much deliberation and debate, decisions were made about which old laws to retain and what new substance was to be added to create North Carolina's constitution. Most importantly, the constitution enforced their bold patriotic resolve to elect a state governor. In effect, the proceedings of the Provincial Congress directed the transition of North Carolina from a colony to a state.

The new revolutionary government inaugurated in New Bern on Jan. 16, 1777, guided North Carolinians through the hardships of the war for independence. The events that occurred in New Bern April of 1777 at the "Palace" – North Carolina's seat of government – played a pivotal role in the development of American independence and democracy.

The first session of the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina convened at the Palace in New Bern on April 7, 1777, two years to the day following the bold resolution drafted

against royal Gov. Josiah Martin's anti-American decree.

On April 7, 1777, the North Carolina General Assembly adopted a constitution for the new commonwealth and elected Richard Caswell the first governor of the state of North Carolina. Caswell took the oath of office at the Palace. North Carolina's General Assembly convened and assumed the administration of the state by implementing the rules of its new constitution.

The first General Assembly made English common law a part of North Carolina's legal heritage. Our state's constitution was not a perfect document; as worded it gave the appearance of freedom and justice for all, but in reality inequities were apparent. Indeed, in practice, only free, white, Protestant landowners were allowed to hold sway on governmental matters.

Conservatives and radicals often clashed while preparing the new constitution. Radicals won a number of seats in the House of Commons, while conservatives, who once played leading roles in the affairs of government, were now relegated to the back pew. The new form of government appeared similar to that of the preceding Colonial period, but

the rules of the game, pardon the pun, changed radically.

North Carolina's state government consisted of a governor, a two-house legislature, and courts. The new state governor was created as a weak governor, so he would not have the power to veto legislative acts. Indeed, Gov. Caswell, unlike the royal governors before him, was required to seek the advice and consent of council in all official governmental matters.

The first North Carolina legislature passed many new laws. Most of the legislative acts proposed were concerned with developing the economy of the commonwealth and as such pertained to the collection of custom duties and an *ad valorem* ("according to value") tax on land, slaves, and other property. Many conservative aristocratic gentlemen raised up on the silver-spoon-fed promises of their Colonial landed gentry began to realize that they were no longer in power and so withdrew from public service in disgust. America's fledgling democracy was in action, and it had a North Carolina accent. ♦

GEORGE WARD SHANNON JR.,  
*Ph.D., an archaeologist, joined the Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens staff in October to assist with special projects.*

The speaker of the 1777 House was Abner Nash of New Bern, and the clerk was Benjamin Exum of Dobbs County. The remaining members of the 1777 House are listed below in alphabetical order by the counties they represented. Alderson Allerson (Beaufort), William Brown (Beaufort), Nathan Keas (Beaufort), Zedekiah Stone (Bertie), Simon Turner (Bertie), Thomas Owen (Bladen), William Lord (Brunswick), Richard Quince Jr. (Brunswick), Ephraim McLean (Burke), James Wilson (Burke), Green Hill (Bute), Benjamin Ward (Bute), Caleb Granby (Camden), Thomas Humphries (Camden), Brice Williams (Carteret), Thomas Chadwick (Carteret), John Atkinson (Caswell), Richard Moore (Caswell), John Birdsong (Chatham), Mial Scurlock (Chatham), Thomas Benbury (Chowan), Jacob Hunter (Chowan), Nathan Bryan (Craven), John Tillman (Craven), William Rand (Cumberland), Phillip Alston (Cumberland), James Ryan (Currituck), James White (Currituck), Andrew Bass (Dobbs), Jesse Cobb (Dobbs), Richard Clinton (Duplin), Robert Dixon (Duplin), Nathan Boddie (Edgecombe), Jonas Johnston (Edgecombe), John Penn (Granville), Thomas Person (Granville), John Collier (Guilford), Robert Lindsay (Guilford), Egbert Haywood (Halifax), Joseph John Williams (Halifax), Joseph Dickenson (Hertford), James Garrett (Hertford), John Jordan (Hyde), Benjamin Parmely (Hyde), Joseph Hancock (Hyde), Alexander Averet (Johnston), Henry Rains (Johnston), Whitmel Hill (Martin), William Slade (Martin), Waightstill Avery (Mecklenberg), Martin Phifer (Mecklenberg), Alexander Lillington (New Hanover), Samuel Swann (New Hanover), Jephtha Atherton (Northampton), Howell Edmunds (Northampton), Robert Peebles (Northampton), John King (Onslow), Henry Rhodes (Onslow), John Butler (Orange), Nathaniel Rochester (Orange), Thomas Burke (Orange), James Ferebee (Pasquotank), Thomas Relfe (Pasquotank), Thomas Harvey (Pasquotank), Jessee Eason (Perquimans), Benjamin Harvey (Perquimans), John Harvey (Perquimans), William Robeson (Pitt), John Williams (Pitt), Matthew Locke (Rowan), James Smith (Rowan), Charles Gordon (Surry), Joseph Winston (Surry), Andrew Neel (Tryon), John Barber (Tryon), John Hooker (Tyrrell), Benjamin Spruill (Tyrrell), John Rice (Wake), Thomas Wooten (Wake), John Rand (Wake), Tignal Jones (Wake), John Sevier (Washington), and Jacob Womack (Washington).

Town representatives of the 1777 North Carolina General Assembly were John Green (Edenton), Willie Jones (Halifax), William Courtney (Hillsborough), Abner Nash (New Bern), David Nisbitt (Salisbury), William Hooper (Wilmington), and John Turner (town not known).





## Question No. 1: When Do Our Gardens Look Best?

FROM APRIL THROUGH JUNE, THE ANSWER CHANGES WITH THE ARRIVAL OF EACH NEW BLOOM

By Perry Mathewes

People often ask when our gardens will be at their peak. It's a surprisingly difficult question to answer. I certainly have favorite plants, and each month will bring some of those favorites and many other plants with their own unique charm into bloom for us to enjoy. Like a proud parent, it is difficult to single out one child over another.

Early April is when many say the gardens are at their peak — as the tulips are in full bloom — but this is viewing the garden through one plant. The transformation of the gardens from April through June is a wonderful show to witness with numerous peaks throughout the season.

April greets the garden wanderer with a fabulous display of tulips and other flowering bulbs. The Latham garden is blanketed with historic flowers: The tall, stately white Maureen tulip commands the central axis of the garden, while the bold red of the Kingsblood tulip and the bright yellow of the Big Smile tulip explode from large planting beds framed with dark green yaupon. Pink, red, yellow, orange, white, and even black tulips wave gently in the breeze in other formal plantings throughout the site as well.

Other plants, sounding their own harmonious note as part of the background choir at the Palace, could easily be stars in any other garden. The Cherokee rose, the Lady Banks rose, and wisteria are three climbers that paint the garden walls with color. Dogwoods, fringe trees, Carolina buckeyes, and a Carolina silver bell provide colorful flowers overhead. Grape hyacinths and forget-me-nots carpet the garden floor, while snapdragons and foxglove stand tall, seeking a little attention for themselves.

In late April and early May the tulips fade but the other plantings in the gardens begin to take over the show. Basket of gold,



*In the ever-changing Kellenberger garden, each flower bed is a complete bouquet unto itself.*

columbine, dame's rocket, foxglove, the old-fashioned form of gladiolus, hollyhock, kerria, lungwort, peony, spiderwort, sweet William, sweetshrub, Virginia bluebell, wild geranium, and yarrow fill the garden next to the museum shop at the Jones house with color and fragrance. In the Mary Kistler Stoney garden, heirloom roses such as Old Blush, Champneys' Pink Cluster, Duchesse de Brabant, Marie van Houtte, Perle de Jardins, and Safrano become the stars, accompanied by bachelor buttons, poppies, delphiniums, pinks, and a couple of snowball bushes.

Sweet perfume wafting through the garden heralds the flowering of sweetbay and southern magnolia at the end of May and in early June. Mock oranges, confederate jasmynes, and gardenias add their own fragrances to the air, while oleanders, hydrangeas, and daylilies color the gardens. By this time the Latham garden and other formal areas have transformed themselves (thanks to the hard work of the gardeners) into a showcase full of marigolds, salvias, gomphrena, vinca, and zinnias. These plants are ready to brave the heat and humidity of the coming summer.

The garden that best exemplifies this constant change of the seasons is the

Kellenberger garden. In contrast to the tailored look of the Latham and Carraway gardens, the Kellenberger garden looks like a bouquet gathered by a child. Just as that child will drop some flowers to pick up others, the garden sees a continual succession of plants coming and going during the progression of the seasons. In April a riot of color greets you upon entering the small walled space. More than a dozen colorful tulips compete for attention with English daisies, wallflowers, Johnny-jump-ups, and other bright flowers. As the month progresses and the tulips fade, Dutch iris, sweet Williams, forget-me-nots, foxgloves, hollyhocks, and poppies join the party. In May, Canterbury bells, dame's rockets, and pinks arrive on the scene before the early summer plants such as heliotrope, four o'clocks, and the wildly colored Joseph's coat take over.

When are our gardens at their peak? That depends on what type of plant you are interested in. Each visit brings new discoveries, new plants at their best, some part of the garden at its peak. If you come often in the next few months, you will see a whole mountain range of peaks. ♦

PERRY MATHEWES is curator of gardens at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens.





## April

### 2 Movie:

#### Henry V

Tuesday, 7 p.m. Visitor Center Auditorium. Free. Sponsored by the Tryon Palace Council of Friends. Laurence Olivier received a special Oscar for outstanding achievement as an actor, producer, and director for his work on this adaptation of Shakespeare's play.



### 5 Gardeners' Weekend:

to 7 Friday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Gardens open to the public free of charge; interior tours at regular prices. During this special weekend, the gardens of Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens will glow with the colors of spring. Gardeners' Weekend is held in conjunction with the New Bern Historic Homes and Gardens Tour.



### 5 Heritage Plant Sale:

and 6 Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Palace grounds.

Held in conjunction with Gardeners' Weekend, this plant sale will feature perennials, herbs, annuals, trees, and shrubs, as well as a collection of unique, rare and historic plants. Come early for the best selection!

### 6 Garden Lecture:

#### Big, Bold, and Bodacious

Saturday, 10 a.m. in the Visitor Center Auditorium. A free Gardeners' Weekend special event.

Nationally known designer Edith Eddleman will offer tips on plants that work well with each other – from bold grasses and cannas to the humble daylily – to make a garden stand out. Learn how to think big in the garden, no matter what size space you have.

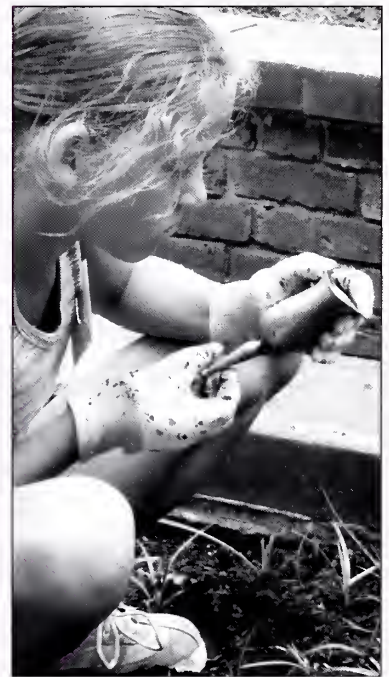
### 6 Council of Friends Day:

Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch: \$12 for adults, \$8 for children. Registration is required. Call (252) 514-4933 to register. The annual meeting of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends at 11:30 a.m. will be followed by a picnic lunch.

### 21 Walking Tour:

#### African American Historic Downtown Walking Tour

Sunday, 2 p.m. Meet in the Visitor Center. \$4; free for Tryon Palace ticketholders and members of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends. Learn about the lives of 19th-century free blacks in New Bern. Holly Fisher, co-ordinator of the African American Research Project at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, will conduct the tour.



### 27 Children's Workshop: Dig It!

Saturday, 10 a.m. Meet in the Visitor Center. \$8 per child; limited to 15 participants; call (252) 514-4935 for reservations.

Students will learn how archaeologists find out about the past by participating in a simulated archaeological excavation. A three-hour program for children ages 9-12.

# May



- 1,2 and 7 Home-School Days:**  
9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day. \$6 for students, \$10 for adults. Space is limited and prepayment is required; call (252) 514-4935 to register.

Home-school families enjoy a full day of hands-on activities, take-home projects, and Palace tours. Bring your picnic lunch and spend a day in the past. Activities designed for school-aged children; some activities have minimum age requirement.

- 7 Movie:**  
*My Fair Lady*  
Tuesday, 7 p.m. Visitor Center Auditorium. Free. Sponsored by the Tryon Palace Council of Friends. The charming tale follows a linguist's quest to transform a street urchin into a proper lady in order to win a bet. Starring Audrey Hepburn and Rex Harrison. George Cukor directs.

- 9 Lecture:**  
*A Plantation and a Seaport Town — The Difference of Slavery in Eastern North Carolina*  
Thursday, 7 p.m. Tryon Palace Auditorium. Free.  
Representatives from the Hope Plantation and Tryon Palace will discuss variances in slavery in two different Eastern North Carolina towns. The lecture is part of an ongoing joint lecture series sponsored by Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens and the James City Historical Society.

- 11 Garden Lecture:**  
*Beautiful Lawns for Coastal Carolina*  
Saturday, 10 a.m. Visitor Center Auditorium. \$4; free for Tryon Palace ticketholders and members of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends. Want to make the grass greener on your own side of the fence? Join turfgrass expert Greg Goudeau to learn the secrets to a beautiful lawn — and how make the neighbors bermuda-green with envy.

- 11 Children's Workshop:**  
*Dig It!*  
Saturday, 10 a.m. Meet at the Visitor Center. \$8 per child; limited to 15 participants; call (252) 514-4935 for reservations. Students will learn how archaeologists find out about the past by participating in a simulated archaeological excavation. A three-hour program for children ages 9-12.

- 13 South Lawn Concert Series:**  
*2nd Marine Expeditionary Force Band*  
Monday, 7 p.m. South Lawn of the Palace. Free. Bring along a picnic, blankets, and lawn chairs (no alcoholic beverages, please). Tryon Palace's new South Lawn Concert Series gets off to a spectacular start as the U.S. Marine Corps bands from Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point join forces for the first time ever to form a single 80-member ensemble that fills the night air with rousing patriotic sounds.

- 14 and 16 Movie:**  
*Down to the Sea in Ships*  
Tuesday and Thursday, 7 p.m. Visitor Center Auditorium. Free. Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens and the Cape Lookout Sail & Power Squadron present two free showings of a film that relates the story of man and the sea using

historic and modern footage. The one-hour film is a production of Connecticut's Mystic Seaport.

- 19 Walking Tour:**  
*African American Historic Downtown Walking Tour*  
Sunday, 2 p.m. Meet in the Visitor Center. \$4; free for Tryon Palace ticketholders and members of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends. Holly Fisher, coordinator for the African American Research Project at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, leads a two-hour tour that focuses on the lives of 18th- and 19th-century free blacks in New Bern.

- 26 South Lawn Concert Series:**  
*Craven Community Concert Band*  
Sunday, 6 p.m. South Lawn of the Palace. Free. Bring along a picnic, blankets, and lawn chairs (no alcoholic beverages, please). The South Lawn Concert Series continues with a history-making program by Craven County's own 70-member concert band featuring the world premiere of "Gov. Tryon's Victory March" by composer Max Myover.

- 30 Workshop:**  
*Tracing and Naming Roots — African American Genealogy*  
Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. New Bern-Craven County Public Library, 400 Johnson St. Free. Pre-registration is required. Call (252) 514-4935 by May 16 to register. Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens and the New Bern-Craven County Public Library are cosponsors for this workshop conducted by Howard Burchette, a North Carolina genealogist.



# June

## 3 Day Camp: to Camp Yesteryear

7 Daily, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$40 per student, enrollment is limited to 25 students. Call Craven County Recreation & Parks, (252) 636-6606, to register.

Camp Yesteryear is a weeklong day camp that allows children entering Grades 4 and 5 to explore Colonial life. In the mornings, small groups will learn about hearth cooking, fiber crafts, and Colonial games. Afternoon topics include archaeological exploration and natural history.

## 4 Movie: Becket

Tuesday, 7 p.m., Visitor Center Auditorium. Free. Sponsored by the Tryon Palace Council of Friends. Set in 12th-century England, this fact-based story follows the relationship of Henry II and his friend, the archbishop of Canterbury. Starring Peter O'Toole and Richard Burton, this film won an Academy Award for Best Screenplay.

## 6 Lecture: Forgotten Black Women — What Happens When the Men Are Gone

Thursday, 7 p.m. Visitor Center Auditorium. Free. North Carolina Arts Council speaker E.J. Stewart discusses rural black women and the changes in their lives once their men and the farms have disappeared.

## 8 Garden Lecture: Maintenance of Trees and Shrubs

Saturday, 10 a.m. Visitor Center Auditorium. \$4; free for Tryon Palace ticketholders and members of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends. Craven County Extension agent Tom Glasgow will share the secrets to growing healthy trees and vigorous shrubs, the

backbone of every landscape design. Learn how to identify problems, care for your plants, and the science behind the recommendations.

## 10 South Lawn Concert Series: North Carolina Symphony

Monday, 7 p.m. South Lawn of the Palace. Free. Bring along a picnic, blankets, and lawn chairs (no alcoholic beverages, please).

Always the highlight of the summer in New Bern, the annual Tryon Palace concert of the Raleigh-based North Carolina Symphony is the perfect way to while away a warm summer's evening.



## 15 Saturday Sampler: Behind the Scenes in the Tryon Palace Collection

Saturday, 10 a.m. Meet in the Visitor Center. \$4; free for Tryon Palace ticketholders and members of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends. Space is limited, and advance reservations are required. For reservations, call (252) 514-4935.

Curator of Collections Nancy Richards leads an in-depth walking tour of the Tryon Palace collection. This program will focus on new restoration projects, interesting historical connections, and hidden treasures.

## 19 Lecture: Set Me Free — Abolitionism and the Race Question

Wednesday, 7 p.m. Visitor Center Auditorium. Free. Holly Fisher, coordinator of Tryon Palace's

African American Research Project, discusses how 19th-century abolitionism framed the race question through the 20th century. The lecture is part of an ongoing joint lecture series sponsored by Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens and the James City Historical Society.

## 23 Walking Tour: African American Historic Downtown Walking Tour

Sunday, 2 p.m. Meet in the Visitor Center. \$4; free for Tryon Palace ticketholders and members of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends. Holly Fisher, coordinator for the African American Research Project at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, leads a two-hour tour that focuses on the lives of 18th- and 19th-century free blacks in New Bern.

## 29 and 30 Special Event: Family Fun Weekend

Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Included with all Tryon Palace tickets; free for members of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends. Experience 200 years of family fun. Highlights of the weekend include historical puppet shows, an 18th-century marketplace, and opportunities for photos in Colonial costume. Also featured are hands-on crafts workshops, a kid's film festival, Colonial dance and games, pirate activities, and games of Rounder on the lawn.

## 29 Concert: Colonial Music for Children

Saturday, 7 p.m. Visitor Center Auditorium. \$4; free for Tryon Palace ticketholders and members of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends. Join Philadelphia musicians and puppeteers Tom and Marianne Tucker for an evening of rollicking 18th-century songs and tunes for the whole family.



*Thousands will get to enjoy music in an idyllic setting at the new South Lawn Concert Series.*

## Strike Up the Bands

SYMPHONY, MILITARY BANDS, WORLD PREMIERE WILL BE PART OF NEW OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES

Music lovers who have enjoyed summer evening musical performances on the lawn behind Tryon Palace in recent years and left wishing for more will see — and hear — their wish come true in 2002 as Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens expands its outdoor concert offerings into a full concert series.

Tryon Palace's new South Lawn Concert Series, which runs from mid-May through early July, will feature free performances by four different performing ensembles from across Eastern North Carolina. Included will be two concerts by old favorites of Tryon Palace audiences — the North Carolina Symphony and the Raleigh-based 440th Army National Guard Band — both of which have brought New Bern audiences to their feet in previous Tryon Palace performances.

But the concert series will offer something new, too, with two other performances bound to make history. The series opens on Monday, May 13, with a concert that will see the U.S. Marine Corps bands from both Camp Lejeune and

Cherry Point come together for the first time anywhere to form the 80-member-strong 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force Band. Then, on Sunday, May 26, the series continues with a performance by the 70-member Craven Community Concert Band that will feature the world premiere of "Gov. Tryon's Victory March," a new work commissioned especially for the occasion by composer Max Myover.

The entire four-concert series is open to the public free of charge, and audience members are urged to come early, picnic supplies in hand, to enjoy the idyllic setting on the Palace's majestic lawn overlooking the Trent River. Gates open two hours before each concert. Audience members are asked to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets for seating; alcoholic beverages are not allowed.

The complete schedule of the South Lawn Concert Series includes:

**MONDAY, MAY 13 (7 P.M.)** — 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force Band, an 80-member ensemble made up of the combined

U.S. Marine Corps bands from Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point.

**SUNDAY, MAY 26 (6 P.M.)** — The 70-member Craven Community Concert Band, under the direction of Dr. Robert Bianco, will perform a program featuring George Frederick Handel's "Water Music Suite" complete with historical dancers in 18th century costume and the world premiere of "Gov. Tryon's Victory March" by North Carolina composer Max Myover.

**MONDAY, JUNE 10 (7 P.M.)** — The annual appearance at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens of the Raleigh-based North Carolina Symphony under the direction of associate conductor William Henry Curry.

**MONDAY, JULY 1 (7 P.M.)** — Our celebration of America's independence kicks off with a return appearance by the 440th Army National Guard Band, whose patriotic tunes and hot jazz thrilled the crowd in their Tryon Palace debut last summer. ♦



## Puppets and Music and Games, Oh My

JUNE WEEKEND WILL FOCUS ON FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

North Carolina's first capitol has something special in store for everyone in the family — from mothers and fathers to kids of all ages — at its new Family Fun Weekend June 29 and 30 at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens.

The focus will be on 200 years of family fun as visitors get to experience a wide array of historical entertainment throughout the weekend. Among the highlights: elaborate historical puppet shows staged by nationally known puppeteers Tom and Marianne Tucker, an 18th-century marketplace, opportunities for photos in Colonial costume, hands-on crafts workshops, a kid's film festival, Colonial dance and games, pirate activities, and games of Rounders on the lawn.

"The Family Fun Weekend will have something for everyone," promises Curator of Interpretation Sara Kirtland Spalding, one of its organizers.

Certain to be a smash hit are the historical puppet shows presented by guest puppeteers Tom and Marianne Tucker. Their Tuckers' Tales Puppet Theatre is a Philadelphia-based performing company founded in 1981. The Tuckers have performed at puppet, folk, ethnic and street festivals, and at craft fairs, shopping centers, theaters and schools around the country doing presentations that range from classic Punch & Judy shows to the tale of St. George and the Dragon. Their historical puppet shows will be presented several times throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday during the Family Fun Weekend.

In addition, at 7 p.m. Saturday evening, June 29, the Tuckers will perform a special concert, "Colonial Music for Children," in the Tryon Palace Auditorium. The concert will feature a wide repertoire of 18<sup>th</sup> century family tunes drawn from the traditions of



*Marianne and Tom Tucker — and friends — will perform June 29 and 30 at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens.*

England, Ireland, America, Scotland and Canada.

"The Tuckers are marvelous," says Spalding. "During the Family Fun Weekend, they will bring to Tryon Palace a wonderful mixture of historical puppet shows and Colonial music to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Their performances are just the right combination of whimsical humor and family entertainment, backed by solid historical research."

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens

will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, with special activities taking place throughout the day. Admission to festival activities is included at no extra charge with all Tryon Palace tickets; admission is free for members of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends. Admission to the Saturday evening concert of Colonial music is \$4 or free for Tryon Palace ticketholders and members of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends. ♦

# Another Year, Another Smashing Success

COUNCIL OF FRIENDS RAISES \$42,000 IN ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

By Michelle Connell Drain

Things will be a little more exciting at the Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens in 2002 thanks to the generosity of our friends from across the state and nation. The combined efforts of 192 donors raised more than \$42,000 during the Tryon Palace Council of Friends 2001 Annual Fund drive as last year was drawing to a close.

Throughout 2001, Annual Fund donations were used by the Council of Friends to help support many of the programs that make Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens a special place to visit. Support of these programs will continue in 2002, and we look forward to helping to support new endeavors as well.

The character interpreter program has helped to bring history to life for children and adults visiting the site. Begun in 1999, the program has steadily grown over the years. As other funding sources have been forced to reduce their support for this important visitor experience, funding from the Council of Friends has allowed the program to continue. A visitor today may encounter a housewife from 1835, one of Gov. Tryon's servants working in the gardens or even perhaps the Governor or Mrs. Tryon.

Originally funded through a grant, the very popular Jonkonnu celebration was once again part of our 2001 Holiday Celebration thanks to the support of the Council of Friends. More than 30 members from the local community, ranging in age from 5 to 60, participated as members of this year's troupe. The Council of



*Support from the Tryon Palace Council of Friends helped to pay for the 2001 Jonkonnu celebration.*

Friends provided funding to costume the expanding troupe and purchased musical instruments for its musicians.

But Jonkonnu wasn't the only part of the Christmas festivities supported by the council. Many of the special performers featured throughout the holiday season, and especially during the Candlelight evenings, wouldn't have been possible without strong support from the Council of Friends.

During their January meeting, the Council of Friends board voted to continue their support for these programs in 2002 and agreed that additional means of supporting the Tryon Palace education mission would be considered at future meetings.

The Council of Friends extends its sincere gratitude to the following donors, each of whom helped to make its 2001 Annual Fund drive a smashing success:

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## New Group Gives Tryon Palace's Interpreters a Unified Voice

Taking their cue from the old adage that two hands are better than one, more than 100 museum guides, craftspeople, and character interpreters who work at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens have come together to form the Tryon Palace Interpreters' Association.

Organizers say the new association will improve communication among interpreters who work in different parts of Tryon Palace's 14-acre campus and allow them to work together more closely. The group also gives various museum committees a more efficient way to tap into the expertise of its interpretive staff.

Officers elected by the new group include Jane Reel, chair; June McClay, assistant chair; Betsy Figueroa, secretary; and these representatives from each of the museum's interpretive branches: Roseanne Lippert, the Palace; Alice Ruckart, historic houses; Ava Gray, crafters; and Margaret Fowler, character interpreters.

Early activities of the association have included participation in a community "adopt-a-family" project during the Christmas season, for which interpreters contributed holiday gifts that were given to



*Museum guides Myra Hammond, Jane Reel, and Pauline Tukes play Santa's helper as they pack boxes with holiday gifts for a needy family. The Tryon Palace Interpreters' Association spearheaded the staff members' participation in the "adopt-a-family" program in December.*

a needy family.

The group also sponsored a February bus trip that brought together more than 40 guides, craftspeople, and character interpreters for a day of social and educational activities in Wilmington.

Members also played an active role in organizing the 3rd Annual North Carolina Docents' Symposium, a two-day conference of museum staff members from across the state hosted by Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens in March. ♦

## Our Wish List

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens goes to great efforts to present the historical past as accurately as possible. The George W. Dixon House now proudly displays a period-appropriate 24-star American flag thanks to the generosity of a friend who spotted a need we missed. You too can help us ensure that the look of objects used in our exhibits is appropriate to the date represented by providing funding for new reproduction items for the Robert Hay House. To make a donation toward any of these items, call the Tryon Palace Council of Friends office at (252) 514-4933.

**MANTEL CLOCK:** Our character interpreters have requested a period appropriate mantel clock. "It would be so

handy to have when trying to direct visitors to a palace tour." Cost is \$250.

**COOKING UTENSILS:** Every cook's dream is to have a well-equipped kitchen. Help fulfill Mrs. Hay's dream by providing the funding for new cooking utensils. A set of six handmade maple spoons costs \$75. An 1830s paring knife is \$35.

**BABY GRAND PIANO:** In order to accommodate many of the musical programs presented at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, we are in need of a baby grand piano. Appearance is not an issue, but we would like one with a good sound board and action that is of performance quality. If someone downsizing a household is looking for a good home for a baby grand, we can help. ♦

## Leave a Legacy

When you are planning your estate, please consider including Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. Your gift will help to assure our future. A bequest directed to the "Tryon Palace Council of Friends" or the "Tryon Palace Commission" is the simplest way to leave a legacy. Cash, securities, real estate, or other property are all good gifts. We are delighted to talk with you, as well, about trusts, pooled income funds, and other ways to benefit the Palace while providing income to you during your lifetime. If you would like to discuss a planned gift, please call Nancy Mansfield, development officer, at (252) 514-4956. Your inquiry will be handled promptly and discreetly.

*Please put Tryon Palace in your will, and please tell us when you do.*





*The Tryon Palace Council of Friends welcomes the following new members who have joined since November 16, 2001:*

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Marjorie J. Rapp, New Bern



## History al Fresco

*Eager onlookers learn the fine points of Colonial-era spinning and basket-making techniques as part of Free Day 2002 on a warm and sunny mid-February Saturday. A record crowd of more than 2,100 visitors took part as Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens opened its gates for a no-charge day of music, fun, and North Carolina history. ♦*



## Tulips Are Forever

Classic decorative accessories with historical prints, botanicals, and decoupage images are perfect to accent your home. Classic Accents represent just one of our new vendors for our shops this spring. Pieces include planters, waste bins, tissue box covers, and wall vases that start at \$40. They'll make a great addition to your office, home study, bath, or sunroom.



## Elegance for the Table

Our selection of silver-plated long-tail birds will set off any dining room or mantel. Our pheasant pair is \$95. Companion china is inspired by 18th-century Chelsea porcelain. Pieces include mugs, plates, and cake plates with prices from \$12 to \$30.

Gorgeous, classic pieces are "flocking" to our Museum Shop, so stop by to select your springtime pieces now. ♦



*Tryon Palace Council of Friends*

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